

IV. MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Specific site management guidelines and provisions allow for operational direction in the management and stewardship of the Table Mountain NRCA site. The previous chapter provided the broader overall site goals and objectives as the foundation for site administration. The management guidelines in this chapter build on the goals and objectives at a more specific level.

This provides a framework with which to make appropriate management decisions to implement program conservation goals at the resource and use-specific level.

A. Sensitive Areas

The lands within Table Mountain NRCA have been classified as Sensitive Areas and Less Sensitive Areas, based on inventory work and studies completed to date. With this site's broad array of ecological, natural and cultural resources, it is important to recognize that even lands designated as less sensitive are critical elements of the conservation area, and are also vulnerable to natural and human induced impacts.

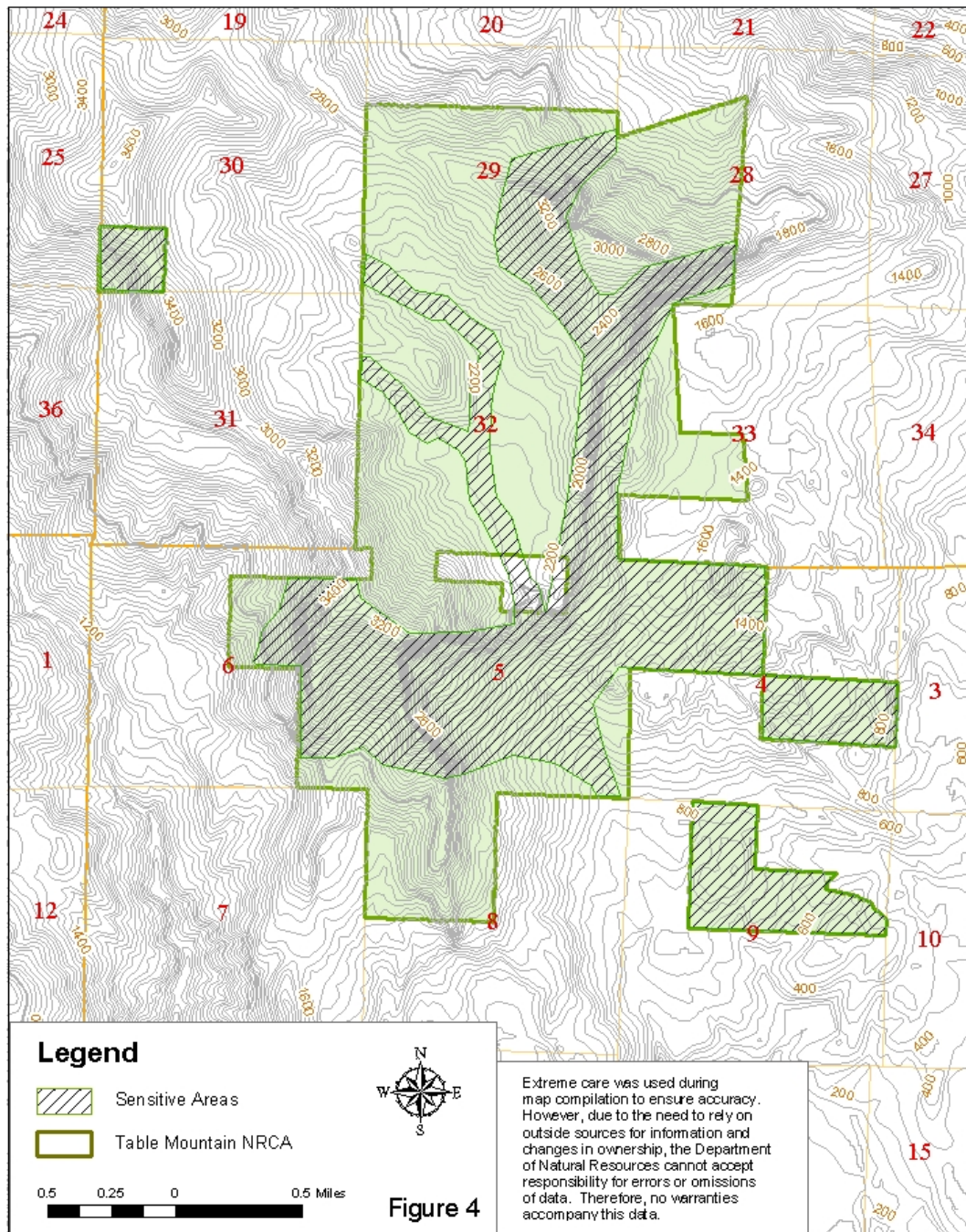
Sensitive areas

Sensitive areas contain species, communities, areas and habitats, which are vulnerable or particularly fragile and therefore highly sensitive to human disturbance. Table Mountain NRCA's sensitive areas include cliffs, montane balds, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitats, erosive soils and unstable slopes, talus occupied by Larch Mountain salamander, areas with the presence of, or habitat for, threatened or endangered species, and areas with cultural and historic resources.

Less sensitive areas

Less sensitive areas are the lands that, based on inventory work and knowledge of the site to date, do not contain the resources identified as "sensitive." Although these lands may be more self-maintaining and resilient, and therefore potentially more suitable for low-impact public use, it is important to recognize that they may still be sensitive to impact if misused. Specific management guidelines relating to public use are addressed within the Low-impact Public Use Section.

Table Mountain NRCA- Sensitive Areas



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Habitats identified as sensitive areas include:

Grassy balds:

The grassy balds of Table Mountain NRCA are currently in good condition due to limited human impact. Their condition contrasts greatly with balds on adjacent Hamilton Mountain to the west, where extensive human use has contributed to degradation of the site. Shallow soils, fragile plant communities and rocky soils make grassy balds highly susceptible to non-native plant invasion, trampling and erosion.

Cliffs:

Cliffs are considered significant wildlife breeding habitat, especially for peregrine falcons and turkey vultures, and they are limited in availability (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1999). Peregrine falcons are sensitive to human activity near the nest.

Aquatic habitats and riparian areas:

Aquatic habitats and riparian areas are generally at greater risk from disturbance, due to their species richness and their higher vulnerability to disturbance. Most of the amphibian and reptile species that occur west of the Cascade Mountains depend on aquatic habitats. Riparian habitats are vulnerable to the sedimentation that can occur in areas where trails are poorly designed, as is the case for some unauthorized trails on Table Mountain.

Talus:

Talus is an important habitat for Larch Mountain salamander and pika and is limited in availability. Any activity that destroys the interstitial spaces between the rocks and disturbs the moisture regimes of these habitats (such as trail building and human trampling) is a threat to the Larch Mountain salamander.

Rare and declining species:

The phrase “rare and declining” is used to encompass threatened, endangered and sensitive species, and other species as yet not listed under federal or state listing provisions, but which are of concern because of their limited numbers or due to threats to their habitats.

Management guidelines:

- Conduct amphibian and butterfly surveys before any site development or land-use activities take place near talus slopes, balds, lentic habitats and lotic habitats. Rocky areas and talus slopes should be protected until it is shown that they are not occupied by the Larch Mountain salamander.
- Avoid establishing new trails or promoting additional human use in or near sensitive areas. Relocation of existing trails for greater resource protection is allowed when accompanied with the appropriate analysis and review by Natural Heritage Program and Natural Areas Program scientists.

- Avoid new trails and increased human activity near the balds and Howell's daisy populations. These are rare and imperiled natural features, and can be damaged and destroyed by human trampling. In addition, people can bring in seeds from exotic plants on their boots that can negatively affect both native plant populations and plant communities.
- Protect, enhance and restore aquatic habitats impacted by human use through the guidelines of this management plan, and the implementation of the trails rehabilitation plan to restore, rehabilitate, improve or relocate existing trails in or near aquatic habitats and their buffers.
- Non-native animals species should not be introduced to the site. Any existing non-native animal species may need to be removed as necessary and practical.
- Trails and human activity should be located away from cliffs.

B. Cultural and Historical Resources

Table Mountain NRCA contains documented cultural and historic sites, which may be vulnerable to damage by public use and by adjacent land uses. Federal law, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Areas Management Plan, state law administered by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (RCW Title 27), and the NRCA Statewide Management Plan, provide that such sites be protected and confidentiality maintained. For this reason, cultural and historic resources are considered sensitive areas under this plan. Site confidentiality is maintained for protection of these important cultural and historic resources.

Management Guidelines:

- Identify, document and protect archaeological, cultural and historic resources by designating them as sensitive areas under this plan and maintaining site confidentiality.
- The program and the DNR archeologist will work in close coordination with tribal archaeologists, and continue to review the NRCA for cultural resources of tribal significance. DNR will then work cooperatively with tribes to jointly develop appropriate and culturally sensitive approaches to managing the site's cultural and historic resources.
- Prior to any form of site modification work, conduct a cultural and historic resources inventory of the proposed area in conjunction with tribal archaeologists.
- Adjacent uses may continue in their existing footprint, however easily visible boundary markers should be placed at the edge of the NRCA. The markers should

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include the buffer already established by DNR.

- As cultural and historic resources are identified, direct public use away from these areas to protect resources, maintain confidentiality, and meet the provisions of legislated protection and program policy.

C. Public Access

Overview

Table Mountain NRCA's unique natural resources and scenic vistas attract both local and regional users. The site's location within the Columbia River National Scenic Area, and its proximity to regional urban population centers mean there will continue to be increased interest in public access. The purpose of this section is to guide management of the site so it is possible to provide for continued opportunities for environmental education and low-impact public use while achieving the other goals of resource protection, enhancement and restoration.

The NRCA is reached by a user-built loop trail leading off the Pacific Crest Trail. This user built trail is steep and eroded in some places. Snow makes a portion of the site inaccessible in winter. Distance and the steepness of access contribute to the difficulty and length of time needed to reach the site and the current low level of access has been important in protecting the good condition of the NRCA's ecological features.

Because of the site's location within the Columbia River National Scenic Area, and its proximity to regional urban population centers, there will likely continue to be increased interest in public access. Any future proposed actions that may increase the levels of public use must meet the criteria outlined below in the Conditional Uses Section and must be approved by the Natural Areas Program ecologist and natural areas region manager to ensure consistency with the program goals.

Ongoing monitoring is a requirement of planning for public use and will be utilized to ensure resource protection. The type and intensity of an allowed use may be limited if it is determined, through monitoring, that the level of use is negatively affecting the resources the NRCA was intended to protect.

Planning for environmental education and low-impact public use opportunities must take into account several key issues at Table Mountain NRCA:

- Conservation of high quality balds which at present are in very good condition, but are a fragile feature that is highly susceptible to human impact, and
- Conservation of the site's other resources in relation to the potential for impact from greater use, and
- Public safety issues in relation to the precipitous topographic features of Table Mountain NRCA, and

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- Site remoteness, which makes providing access opportunities more difficult, but which also protects fragile elements from overuse, and
- Natural Areas Program goals and management plan provisions.

Education

Environmental education programs provide a rich opportunity for creating a greater understanding and appreciation of conservation values and the Natural Areas Program, instilling a sense of stewardship, and providing opportunities for research.

The expertise of educational, scientific and other Natural Areas Program staff will be utilized to develop site-appropriate educational components. These may include expansion of the classroom component and site-appropriate approaches to developing various materials and educational modules. Environmental education materials may also include signs, interpretive areas, leaflets and other tools to educate and share information about the fragile nature of Table Mountain NRCA's sensitive areas, and the need for protection and restoration of the site. Site-based materials should be appropriate to the location, the information being shared, and not detract from the natural setting.

Many caring and conservation-minded individuals have been involved with this site over time, including volunteer site stewards who joined a formal stewardship program at Table Mountain in 2001. By providing rewarding stewardship opportunities to interested volunteers with a diversity of expertise, this committed group can learn about the program's conservation goals and the diverse natural resources of the site. They can also be resources to educate users and others about the unique qualities of Table Mountain NRCA, the Natural Areas Program's conservation goals, and issues of resource protection and conservation in the 21st Century.

Low-Impact Public Use

Provisions for low-impact public use of NRCAs are included as part of the NRCA Act. The NRCA Statewide Management Plan gives specific policy guidance about how to define and evaluate low-impact public use. Low-impact public uses are those activities that do not adversely affect a site's resource qualities. Specifically, these activities shall not compromise a site's integrity, or its ecological, geological, scenic, historic and archaeological values.

DNR proposes to use an interactive approach to resource protection in public use areas by working with users and user groups to share knowledge of the NRCA, its resources, and its site-specific public use provisions.

Allowed Uses

Table 4 below lists uses currently allowed within Table Mountain NRCA, however uses may be restricted or prohibited where such uses cause unacceptable resource degradation or impact sensitive species.

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Where possible, allowed uses will be clustered to avoid disturbances to the entire NRCA. As much land as possible will remain undisturbed to further the goals to maintain, enhance and restore ecosystems.

Ongoing monitoring is a requirement of planning for public use and will be utilized to ensure resource protection. The type and intensity of an allowed use may be limited if it is determined that the current level of use negatively affects the resources the Table Mountain NRCA is intended to protect.

Any use not specifically listed in Table 4 as an allowed use in this plan is excluded; except those low-impact uses which may be temporarily allowed if they undergo the review process and meet all the criteria for a conditional use.

Table 3: Allowed Uses Within Table Mountain NRCA

Allowed Uses in Table Mountain NRCA		
Land Area Designation	Type of Use	Conditions of Use
Highly Sensitive Areas	DNR administrative uses	Administrative activities as necessary to protect, enhance and restore site and administer use
	DNR approved scientific uses	Requires prior approval by Natural Areas Program scientist and region natural areas manager for consistency with program goals
	Low-impact public use of sensitive areas	Restricted to approved designated trails only. Level of use may be limited or changed based on sensitivity of resource or stewardship activities
Less Sensitive Areas	Hiking	On designated trails
	Photography	On designated trails
	Bird watching	On designated trails
	Nature study	On designated trails
	Picnicking	No infrastructure provided: pack in, pack out policy
	Hunting	Following WDFW rules and regulations. No shooting from, across or into any approved trail or road.
	Environmental education activities	Where such activities are low-impact and do not adversely affect the resource values, and pre-arranged with DNR prior to site visit; maximum size 12.
	DNR administrative uses	Administrative activities as necessary to protect, enhance and restore site and administer use
	DNR approved scientific uses	Requires prior approval by Natural Areas Program scientist and region natural areas manager for consistency with program goals
	Interpretive tours	Accompanied by DNR representative or designee; maximum size 12.

Hunting

Access to the NRCA for hunting is allowed when conducted according to the rules and regulations of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Pack animals and pets are not allowed on the NRCA. The discharge of firearms in seasons other than regulated seasons may be a safety issue due to potential user conflict and would require further study prior to any future consideration of approval. In order to ensure the safety of other recreational users, no shooting is allowed from, across or into any approved trail or road.

Conditional Uses

Conditional uses are low-impact pedestrian uses that are not specifically addressed as allowed uses, that upon undergoing DNR's review process are determined to be consistent with the criteria for an allowed use when carried out on a limited, single-use basis.

DNR may grant a temporary permit when a proposed use is not listed as prohibited, and the use meets all of the criteria for a conditional use. DNR takes a cautious approach to reviewing conditional uses due to the fragile nature of the features being protected and the risk of damage to the resource.

Conditional uses must meet all of the applicable provisions of the NRCA Statewide Management Plan and the provisions of this plan, including the following criteria.

- Poses no threat to protecting the sensitive resources the NRCA was intended to protect
- Does not compromise or degrade ecosystems and resources of the NRCA
- Meets the provisions of RCW 79.71 and the NRCA Statewide Management Plan.
- Provides a net benefit to the NRCA and the Natural Areas Program
- Is not extractive or destructive in nature
- Does not occur in a sensitive area
- Does not deprive the general public access to, or limit enjoyment of, the NRCA
- Does not detract from the general public interest

Incidental Rock and Mineral Collecting

Incidental rock and mineral collecting as a recreational activity is defined in the NRCA Statewide Management Plan as the collection of limited amounts of rock, mineral or fossil specimens by an individual for personal collection purposes.

Management guidelines:

- Incidental rock and mineral collecting as a recreational activity will be reviewed using the criteria for conditional uses. No incidental rock and mineral collecting shall occur in sensitive areas.

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Excluded Uses

Uses, including commodity-based activities, that are destructive of the resources, aesthetically offensive, disruptive, incompatible with cultural or ecological values, limiting or curtailing to existing life on the site or pose health and safety concerns, will not be allowed (NRCA Statewide Management Plan).

Management guidelines:

- Since it is difficult to realistically anticipate the type of potential uses that might be proposed, all uses not specifically listed as allowable uses, or reviewed as conditional uses, are excluded.
- The use of mechanized transportation (including but not limited to cars, trucks, ORVs, motorcycles and bicycles) off road, on trails or on closed roads will not be allowed. Exceptions may be made for utilizing vehicles for emergency response, management activities and stewardship activities.
- Due to the high conservation value of this site and the fragility of its sensitive areas, non-motorized vehicles and pack or stock animals are excluded. This exclusion does not apply to roads and trails outside the jurisdiction of the plan, such as existing deeded road easements or the Pacific Crest Trail. These types of routes are subject to their respective requirements and provisions.
- Due to the site's ecological sensitivity, the collection of plants and mushrooms or firewood is not allowed.
- In order to protect native wildlife and other natural resources, pets are not allowed.
- Due to the lack of campsites and potential damage to sensitive resources camping is not allowed.

Tribal Uses

The continuation of activities that are part of tribal cultural values and reserved treaty rights is provided under federal and state laws and DNR policy. DNR will consult with local tribes to develop guidelines for compatibility of use with the conservation goals of the Natural Areas Program. See the Cultural and Historic Resources Section for management guidelines.

D. Commodity-Based Activities

Commodity-based activities, including but not limited to grazing, agriculture, aquaculture, natural resource picking and harvesting, mining, and oil and gas exploration, are generally inconsistent with the management goals and emphasis of the Natural Areas Program and the Table Mountain NRCA.

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DNR will review all applications for commodity-based activities by applying all the criteria listed under the Conditional Uses Section, combined with the policies of the Statewide Management Plan, which state:

- Commodity-based activities shall not compromise a site's integrity and its ecological, geological, scenic, historic and archaeological values.
- Proposals for the exploration and development of minerals, oil and gas not owned as part of the NRCA, including trust-owned minerals, will be evaluated for environmental sensitivity and agreement with the NRCA's management policy. No open pit mines will be allowed; subsurface operations should be accessed from outside of the NRCA with little or no surface disturbance in the conservation area. When the mineral rights are NRCA-owned, mineral leases will be issued only when no surface or no harmful disturbance can be anticipated over the project's life.
- Mining will not be allowed under the following conditions:
 - Pit mining.
 - All surface mining where the NRCA ownership includes mineral rights.
 - All sub-surface mining where NRCA ownership includes mineral rights, unless such mining can be accomplished without harming ecological systems.

E. Roads and Easements

Easements are specific deeded access or use rights within the NRCA that are described in recorded documents previously executed between DNR and the easement beneficiary. All existing easements were deeded prior to the designation of Table Mountain as an NRCA and include:

- Easement for Pacific Crest Trail
- Power line easement
- Natural gas pipeline easement
- Existing rights-of-way executed with property owners for purposes of crossing Table Mountain NRCA ownership over existing easement roads.

F. Fire Management

Fire is an important natural disturbance in the ecosystems of Table Mountain; therefore its management is of considerable significance. The natural fire regime for the majority of forests on the site is probably that of infrequent, high-severity fires that kill the majority of trees in a stand. In addition to affecting forest stands, fire likely also played a role in maintaining balds by thinning or removing woody species and favoring fire-tolerant herbaceous species. Today, the majority of forests are recovering from relatively recent fires and logging activity. In addition, many of these young forests appear to have experienced two intense fires within the last century. Reburns of extensive stand-replacement fires early this century appear to have been a somewhat widespread phenomenon. The Yacolt burn of 1902 appeared to be largely a result of human land use practices, including extensive logging without slash removal and many human ignitions.

As of the date of completion of this NRCA management plan, there is a Table Mountain NRCA

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Wildfire Suppression Plan on file at DNR's Pacific Cascade Region office in Castle Rock. The plan addresses fire management objectives, resource specialist notification instructions, pre-suppression planning, training and orientation, control lines, mop-up procedures, post-fire rehabilitation and known safety hazards.

Table Mt. NRCA is managed according to RCW 79.71 (NRCA Act) to protect natural processes and natural features. The NRCA is also subject to RCW 76.04.750, which states that "every reasonable effort will be made to suppress uncontrolled fires". Within the NRCA, fire may produce beneficial effects and help maintain certain ecosystems or species, however the responsibility to protect life and adjacent land is paramount. The immediate and short-term goal is to act safely and aggressively to suppress all uncontrolled fires while using discretion to minimize impacts to ecological systems.

Prescribed fire may be desirable in the near future (within 20 years) for maintaining the bald grasslands in the NRCA. This will be determined by monitoring and research conducted on the site. Because the natural fire regime within the forests on the site is one of long intervals and high-intensity fires, fire suppression is compatible with maintaining these communities for at least the next 100 years, based on when they last burned. This will allow the forest to develop late-successional characteristics and species (such as western hemlock) that are in short supply in the landscape now. This will benefit many animal species that are associated with old forests. In the long term (approximately 100 years), it may be appropriate to use fire as a management tool within the forest stands on the NRCA. A detailed fire management plan would be needed to complement such a strategy.

- All fire activities should be conducted in a way that minimizes impacts to the NRCA. Specifically:

Fire suppression efforts should emphasize early detection and early suppression in order to minimize damage related to mechanical creation of firebreaks.

- Fire fighting activity should be avoided whenever possible in sensitive areas: Howell's daisy populations, riparian habitats, balds, talus habitats.
- Water and hand tools should be used to stop the spread of wildfire, except under extreme conditions or if an improved structure is threatened. Crews should use a mist (instead of straight stream) water application where possible.
- Existing fuel breaks and roads should be used for firelines as much as possible, rather than creating new fire lines. When new firelines are necessary, hand lines are preferable to retardants or bulldozers.
- Fire retardants should not be used within the NRCA unless absolutely necessary. Under extreme conditions or when an improved structure is threatened, foam or

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retardants are preferable to bulldozers.

- Fire vehicles will be confined to roads and, when applicable, bulldozed fire trails.
- Any activity that would alter the flow of water into or out of wetlands or shore areas should be avoided.
- Helicopter landing areas and fire camps should not be established within the NRCA
- Trees and snags will not be felled unless they pose a threat to firefighters.
- Location and extent of mop-up, and type of mop up activity will be determined by the Incident Commander in consultation with region Natural Areas staff, using the following guidelines: 1) Let the fire burn to containment/confinement/control perimeter line; 2) water will be used rather than dry mopping, to minimize the disturbance of the soil and vegetation (verses dry mopping,). Mop-up activities should be avoided in the sensitive areas and soil disturbance minimized by using water as much as possible.
- Cultural resources should be protected.
- During fire suppression, DNR will use the Table Mountain NRCA Wildfire Suppression Plan and attempt to have a Natural Areas Program representative available to advise the incident commander.

G. Weed Management

Several non-native plant species occur on Table Mountain and Greenleaf Peak, according to data gathered for the biological inventory for the Table Mountain NRCA. Most of them are not abundant.

The potential negative effects of introduced plant species should be monitored for the red fescue montane grassland community and for the Howell's daisy populations. St. Johnswort, is common and widespread on Table Mountain. Because of its abundance and wide distribution, control of this species does not seem feasible. However, if this species starts to dominate the montane grassland community, then control efforts should be considered. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) was observed at two nearby locations on Table Mountain. Both stands are approximately 75 feet by 40 feet. This species is a Class C weed in Washington. Because this is a localized occurrence of an extremely invasive species, immediate and aggressive control measures are likely to successfully eradicate it from the site. If the species becomes widespread on the mountain, control would be very difficult or impossible. Chemical treatment of this species using the recommendations of Bossard et al. (2000) should continue annually until it has

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been eradicated. Common hawkweed (*Hieracium acuminatum*) was collected near the power lines to the northwest of Table Mountain where it is abundant. It has also been observed to be frequent in small amounts in some areas around the Table Mountain summit and spreading along trails that traverse the powerline corridor. Because little is known about the ecological behavior of this species locally and because it appears to be spreading along trail corridors it should be viewed as a potential threat and controlled. Its spread along trails and into undisturbed balds should be monitored. One low elevation bald on the southeastern flank of Table Mountain is dominated by exotic annual grasses and should be monitored and targeted for weed control.

Table 4 provides an overview of weed management approaches to be implemented at Table Mountain.

Table 4- Noxious Weed Management for Table Mountain NRCA

Weed	Site distribution	Noxious weed classification	Guideline for control
St Johnswort	Widespread and abundant	Class C	Not feasible unless begins to dominate montane community, then consider control efforts
Canada thistle	On bald near summit overlook	Class C	Immediate and aggressive control measures should be implemented to control this extremely aggressive weed
Common hawkweed	Along power lines in northwest; also common in parts of summit plateau	Class C	Control and Monitor closely
Dandelion	Widespread in open areas	Not classified	Monitor
Wall lettuce	Roads and forests	Not classified	Monitor
Scotch broom	Talus, power line corridor	Class B	Control

H. Forestry Activities

Timber harvest will not be allowed except for stewardship purposes intended to maintain or enhance protected resources or when necessary for constructing low-impact public use facilities outside sensitive areas. Natural Areas Program scientists and staff, and Natural Heritage Program scientists, shall review and consider the impacts of any forestry activity in relation to the goals of the Natural Areas Program and the health of the resources and features protected at Table Mountain NRCA. See also the Restoration Activities Section.

I. Monitoring

Monitoring involves the collection and analysis of repeated observations or measurements to evaluate changes in condition or progress toward meeting a management objective. The process begins with the establishment of a baseline measurement of specific conditions and

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characteristics. Periodic measurements (sometimes coupled with suitable historic data) can show the extent and rate of change taking place within the identified monitoring area. Monitoring systems must be carefully designed to capture information that will be relevant for answering questions about resource conditions and management goals for the site.

As stewardship techniques are developed to restore and maintain ecological systems for the associated public and natural resource benefits, monitoring is utilized to determine the effectiveness of these conservation strategies.

Low-impact use monitoring measures the impact that users have on the condition of the site, and aids land stewards in making decisions that promote the Natural Area Program conservation goals of resource protection, enhancement and restoration. Where public use is determined to have a negative impact, decisions can be made to relocate or curtail an activity based on measurable changes to the site.

J. Research

Research involves a designed study to determine the cause(s) and/or effects of an observed ecological phenomenon, or to develop management techniques that can benefit the site, e.g. restoration or population re-introduction methods. Research is generally designed to answer a specific question(s). Research at Table Mountain NRCA provides the opportunity to learn more about the site's resources and conditions. It also provides an opportunity to promote environmental education goals through links with educational institutions and faculty or advanced students interested in pursuing pertinent research questions at the site. The site provides an example of ecological resources in their natural state, allowing researchers to learn from the NRCA, and in turn share information with DNR and the public.

K. Restoration

Restoration activities are carried out to implement site recovery where allowing ecological and physical processes to predominate would threaten the continued existence or condition of the primary features that the conservation area was intended to protect. Currently, there is no need to use silvicultural practices to modify or create habitat for animal species. With time the forests will age and develop the structural characteristics of older forests including large live trees, snags, and logs. Silvicultural activities may speed up this process and create many of these structural characteristics, but the end result may be quite different from a naturally created old growth forest.

The NRCA can serve an important ecological role for fish by providing a source of clear cold water to the lower reaches of streams that originate within the NRCA boundary. Fortunately, the streams within the preserve boundary are well shaded, primarily with conifer trees. Several of the sites with alder along the stream are naturally occurring alder stands and should not be converted to conifer stands. As the forests continue to mature naturally, they will provide larger woody structure to the stream.

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Any ecological restoration activity should consider the following:

- When possible, use plants and seeds from adjacent sites.
- Plant species selected should mimic natural plant communities, or at least an appropriate seral stage of these communities.
- When purchasing “native” species, attempt to locate material originating from local stock (within approx. 30 miles) and similar climate and topographic conditions. Only use material that originated from the same ecoregion and is the same variety as that found on the site.
- Do not use invasive native species that are likely to negatively impact adjacent native vegetation.
- Do not use “native species” that are not native to the site.
- Use soils from adjacent sites. When soils are imported, it is critical that they are sterilized to minimize the potential import of exotic weed species.

For larger restoration projects, a detailed restoration plan should be developed identifying the purpose and objectives, methods, and monitoring.

L. Regulation and Law Enforcement

DNR staff will be responsible for enforcement of fire regulations, trespass, and public use provisions within the Table Mountain NRCA. Enforcement will emphasize non-confrontational techniques and voluntary compliance whenever possible. In the event of violation of game laws or other serious crimes, DNR staff will seek cooperative assistance from the Skamania County Sheriff, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington State Patrol and other appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Management guidelines:

- DNR’s existing Law Enforcement Policy is applicable to all law enforcement actions relating to NRCAs.
- Uses and activities within an NRCA that are not consistent with the Natural Resource Conservation Areas Act’s conservation purposes shall be considered in violation of the Act. DNR’s existing law enforcement policies shall apply.
- The Department shall comply with all applicable government regulations in the management of the NRCA and shall also cooperate with local and state enforcement agencies.